

ROBERT MENENDEZ
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN
AFFAIRS
BUDGET
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

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317 SENATE HART OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4744

ONE GATEWAY CENTER
11TH FLOOR
NEWARK, NJ 07102
(973) 645-3030

208 WHITE HORSE PIKE
SUITE 18-19
BARRINGTON, NJ 08007
(856) 757-5353

Acting Administrator James Ray
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Ray:

I write to you in regards to the \$354 million grant the Federal Highway Administration is poised to award to New York City should the New York State Legislature approve a congestion pricing plan for Manhattan. Last week the City unilaterally changed the plan to unfairly burden New Jersey commuters.

As originally devised, the congestion pricing plan was designed to allow tolls paid by drivers at bridges and tunnels entering Manhattan to offset the congestion price drivers would be charged for driving in Manhattan below 60th Street. Thus, whether someone was paying a toll to cross the Triborough Bridge or to cross the George Washington Bridge, the congestion price would be discounted by the amount paid in toll. That plan placed a large burden on drivers, but at least it was fair.

But last week New York City secretly changed the plan to include a special surcharge on New Jersey drivers. No longer will they have their tolls offset the congestion price as New York drivers enjoy. Instead, New Jersey drivers will have to pay \$11 to enter Manhattan while New York drivers will only have to pay \$8. This system is patently unfair.

The scheme is doubly unfair since New York City stands to gain \$354 million in federal funds designed to improve mass transit services in New York. The 140,000 New Jerseyans who commute to New York City will not see any of these funds despite the considerable strain that will surely be placed on our state's mass transit system should this plan be put in place.

On behalf of New Jersey commuters I ask that you deny New York City any grant money unless they fix the inequities they recently included in the plan.

I thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator